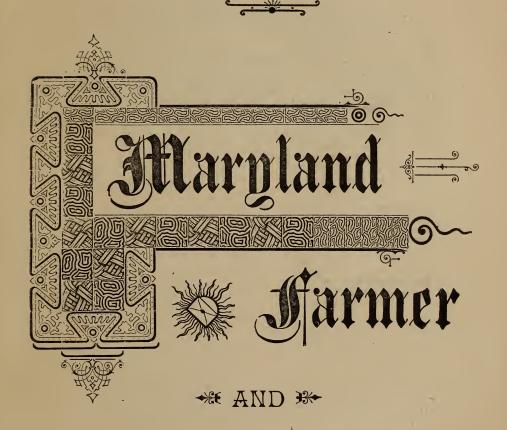
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IZEW HARM.

Vol. XXIX.

BALTIMORE, March 1892.

No. 3

DREAMS.

BY CLIFTON S. WADY.

Whate'er of good, whate'er of harm We meet in life, the homestead farm In memory dear Is ever near.

In the dingy room of a garret bare, Sits an aged man with whitened hair; Time creeps— He sleeps.

And recollections swift and warm Are conjured up, of childhood's home. He drives the cattle once again Adown the path of a leafy lane, Or sits with daisies in the grass And waits for the herd to saunter past. Now he stands aloft in the deep-mouthed mows Pitching the hay to the anxious cows.

Slow in the west the sun has set, Though her tender glory lingers yet; As he bares his head to the evening breeze That swings in fragrance, the apple trees. The cares of the years and all life's jars He leaves in dreams at the meadow bars. And he walks by the banks of living streams While the stranger whispers—
"He dreams, he dreams."

For The Maryland Farmer

OUR NEW FARM, XXXI.

RENOVATING POOR LANDS.

NE PORTION OF OUR FARM containing about fifteen acres I found in a very barren condition. It was a light sandy piece of ground and as I examined it one day with Mr. Camden, I told him I wanted to improve it.

He shook his head and said:

"Weeds won't grow on that piece of sand, and it would be only throwing away money to try to raise any crop there."

But I was not satisfied and I resolved to have a trial at it and see what could be done. I felt sure that if I had the money to employ labor I could bring it up; but having very little cash, I must depend upon my own and Charley's labor at odd times.

I commenced by cutting a wide ditch through the swamp during a very dry spell and hauling all the materials on to this piece of land. I made a large pile of it, for I cut a ten foot ditch two feet deep across the ten acres, right through where I had once failed in the cranberry venture.

I did not get only a small part of it cut the first dry season, for I did not commence as promptly as I should another year, and I found it rather heavy work if followed steadily. However, I persevered till I had to stop on account of the September rains, and calculated that the commencement would be good for at least an acre.

This pile of muck and peat I left exposed during all that fall and winter, giving it no attention whatever; and when I examined it in the early spring the spade went into it almost as if it was ashes. The greater part of it was in this condition, but a few lumps still remained—enough to remind me that I could not have it all perfect.

In spreading it I may have put it on thicker than was intended, for it did not cover quite an acre. I plowed it in, and harrowed it thoroughly, and sowed one quarter of it with clover, one quarter with barley, one quarter with oats, and one quarter with rye. The clover did not come; the barley and oats were very feeble: the rye made a fair growth. I turned them all under the last of June and sowed corn broad cast. This grew middling well; but not enough so to encourage the idea that it would have amounted to anything if the piece had been planted to corn earlier. I turned this crop in by using a chain on the plow the last of September, and in October sowed rye on the whole piece. The next spring I turned in the rye and sowed clover. The clover grew well and I let it alone to fall on the ground. The following year I gave this patch a hundred lbs or so of plaster, and that fall I had clover there that astonished me.

Mr. Camden came over one day when that clover was at its best. I knew he had been watching it and had seen all my work from the beginning, so I invited him out to see it now.

He shook his head again, even as he did before I commenced to improve it; but this time with a very different look on his face, and said:

"Well, I vow, who would believe it?" Thus far, after this manner or a similar one, I have improved the greater part of that fifteen acres. It is slow work; but it is done when the opportunity offers to work in the swamp and when no other work is pressing. At the same time, I hope the ditch will be the first step in the complete conversion of that swamp into a profitable and healthy piece of land. Thus two improvements will be made at the same time.

I want some day to have my wife and daughter walk over to the neighborhood of that swamp without saying, as they always have in the past, "Too bad, to bad!"

My daughter's husband, with his wife, came in the other evening and began to talk about how he had better improve the land around his house and back of his orchard. It was in a much better condition than it was before the sheep were placed on it; but now, since the sheep were no longer allowed there, he wished to take the best means of improving it rapidly.

I advised him to make purchase of a few carloads of horse manure, which he could get from Baltimore very cheaply; and as much good hard wood ashes as he could obtain.

He, however, had been reading and thought Kainit and bone would be best; and this would give him a crop of corn and sweet potatoes, and prepare the way for further improvement through some green crop.

Then I said:

"What all this sandy land wants is humus, vegetable mould, and you can't get anything to take the place of that. It is on this account I recommended the manure from horse stables from Baltimore."

He said:

"The most of that is straw and I can buy all the straw nearer home and much cheaper than to bring it from Baltimore."

I answered:

"What you say is very true, James. But that straw contains a goodly portion of foreign matter after it has been used in the stables, which I think will more than pay for the difference in the cost."

Then James said:

"But in using the chemical fertilizers, or the Kainit and ground bone, I escape a great deal of hard work—hauling, spreading, plowing under and harrowing—and by turning under some green crop I secure the vegetable mould, also."

To this I replied:

"This is very true; but you put off the improvement of your land at least a year. I have noticed that commercial fertilizers are seldom of much value in a soil which is comparatively destitute of vegetable matter."

Then James continued:

"I am well satisfied that plenty of stable manure would be far better than anything else for this land; but it involves a heavy expense in city cartage, and railroad charges, and hauling from the railroad up these hills to the farm. I want something which will not be too heavy on the cash to begin with."

Then I remarked:

"But even the coarse part of the stable manure would need composting somewhat before it could be used to advantage. Unless decomposed and made fine, it would not bring a crop in this sandy land. On the whole I think probably Kainit and bone, with what leaves and barn yard manure you can get together will be the best after all."

I came to this conclusion finally on several accounts:

James had but little capital and would feel anxious if he should lay out much of it at once for fertilizers.

He not only had his own place to work and care for; but he also wanted to be ready to help on his father's farm and my farm when we needed him.

He wished also to make some improvements about his house and barn, in the way of sheds, a grape arbor, some extra fencing and the like.

Other items, too, would take a share of both labor and money; so that I saw it would be a saving in many ways to him, to get the condensed fertilizers and grow a crop from them, ending in clover to turn in preparatory to the more permanent enrichment of the land.

James then said:

"We farmers who are just commencing and have little besides our lands and our hands and a very few tools and small team, can't do much unless we study what is about us, and know how others have done in like circumstances."

I said in this same strain:

"If you can take time, there is never any trouble; but the general desire seems to be to get everything now, right away, without waiting."

James then remarked:

"I wonder that no one has ever thought

of writing directions for just such cases as mine; directions founded on their own personal experiences. It would do a vast amount of good, I am sure."

I had to say:

"The great mistake is that most writers have no actual experience in these things. They write from mere theories. They tell what to do and those who would follow them, should have the U.S. treasury to draw upon if necessary."

Hereupon we all had a hearty laugh, and wife and daughter wanted to be heard.

Wife said:

"I remember when we lived in the city; and you know, John, how easily we thought we could farm; and what great crops we were going to have without any very hard work."

And then daughter spoke up:

"But when we got out here and father came in from the field, before the morning was half gone, all worn out, his clothes wringing wet with sweat, and filled with dust and dirt, for us to clean up, the work didn't seem so easy."

I answered all this:

"Yes, I haven't forgotten our sweet visions at all. Before I got used to the country work it was sometimes a fearful task upon me: But now! I don't mind it at all! We have more than realized all our sweet visions. I wouldn't think for a moment of going back to that thankless drudgery of the city life."

And so thought we all. The wife and daughter have occasional hankerings for the city conveniences; but they are swallowed up in the peace of mind which has now taken the place of the thousand anxieties which then beset us.

(To be continued.)

Importing Bees.

The Department of Agriculture is about to send an expedition to India for the purpose of procuring certain giant bees which are wild in that country. They are the biggest species known in the world and they build ombs in the forests as large as ordinary house doors, giving enormous quantities of wax.

If they could spread their swarms in the semi-tropical forests of the United States they might be made to supply considerable crops of the finest and most valuable wax.

Curiously enough, the drones are no larger than ordinary bees and this fact affords reason for hoping that they will mate with the females of stocks already acclimated here.

These wonderful insects have longer tongues than are possessed by other bees and the belief is entertained that they could secure from many kinds of flowers honey which now goes to waste.

Weight of Paper Money.

In the Treasury here one day the question came up as to the weight of a dollar bill.

Scales of perfect accuracy were brought into requisition, and the surprising discovery was made that twenty-seven one dollar notes weighed exactly as much as a twenty dollar gold piece.

The latter just balances 540 grains.

However, the bills weighed were perfectly crisp and new.

Trial made with soiled notes, such as come in every day for redemption, showed that twenty-seven of them weighed con-

siderably more than the twenty dollar coin.

Every paper dollar on its way through the world continually accumulates dirt, so that after a year of use it is perceptibly heavier.

For the Maryland Farmer.

CIGARETTES.

BY DR. CRACE-CALVERT.

PERHAPS NO HABIT is more destructive to all the sweet and gentle elements of character in our young men than the tobacco habit. And the most destructive form of this is Cigarette smoking.

Many of the most fearful diseases of both body and mind can clearly be traced to this.

Cancer of the tongue, acute and then chronic sore throat, derangement of the nervous system, vitiation of the gastric juices, and many minor but potent effects upon the system, including serious heart troubles, are the results of Cigarette smoking.

Its fearful work on the mind is almost equal to mental paralysis. Its first work is hesitancy of thought, so that delay is visible in forming or expressing opinions; then, also, a vacancy comes in the mind and is seen in the eyes; then, this is followed by a condition sometimes bordering upon idiocy. If these conditions are prevented by strength of will, as is sometimes the case, the powerful re-action will bring on insanity in some violent form: then the nicotine element asserting itself creates despondency, and paints the world in darkness.

This is the effect of Cigarette smoking

and sad to say the young men of to day are being universally involved in the habit. The use of tobacco is making the future homes of our people of small promise as to manly physical or mental powers.

It is not to be wondered at that women are fast taking prominence in many of those pursuits which require good judgment, quick decision and persevering action. Even in some of the rougher spheres of labor, where clear mind is needed to plan and direct, we find women rapidly stepping to the front. Some of the best farming operations, requiring clear comprehension of results, are now carried forward by women. They have minds not befogged by tobacco, and they are generally successful.

One of the really sad things in this connection is the fact that the young are encouraged in their cigarette smoking by the example of older and often prominent men, as to position and influence, who give them all their excuses when the subject is mentioned. These elders do not perhaps smoke Cigarettes; but they smoke tobacco incessantly in many cases, and that is enough.

Speaking to a young man on this subject a short time since in a pleasant way, I received this answer:

"Rev. Mr. ——, my pastor, smokes the greater part of his time, and if it was wrong or an injury he would not give us such an example. Most of his young people smoke Cigarettes and I have never known of his rebuking them."

I could not but think that here was a case directly in point where the vicious habit unfitted a man to deal honestly with the young. Even when the law

makes the selling of an article to the young a criminal offence, the minister encourages its use by his example.

The Cigarette is such a mild form of the pernicious drug, that the child of 12 to 16 years of age readily adopts it, that he may emulate his elders; and when encouraged by prominent examples, the advice of parents is often disregarded.

I must at some future day write you my views of the harmful effects of tobacco on the home life of the American people. This is only a touch of the general subject as connected with Cigarettes.

For The Maryland Farmer.

FOR YOU.

You expect to grow some pork for home consumption. Remember, an early spring pig will do his best during his first year, to be kept until Christmas. The first part of his life keep him growing by liberal but not fattening food. Give him the liberty of the orchard if you can and good pasture. As the cold weather approaches, next fall, give him corn and fatten him.

* *

Sweet pork is the results of keeping the pigs clean. Whether they are in the field or in the pen keep all their surroundings clean and sweet, and the meat will be manyfold better than ordinary. Animals can be taught neatness and cleanliness and the hog is no exception.

* *

In the present day it pays to concentrate manure and labor on a few acres. Don't act hastily; but consider well this statement. If you can take from one

acre the profit of \$300, is it not much better than to get it from 10 or 15 acres? Skimming over a large surface is a very unsatisfactory way of getting an income, when half the labor on a small area, will earn an equal sum, and earn it much more pleasantly.

When you are toiling and struggling over bad roads during the approaching season, let it remind you that fair work can be done by solidly compacting the roads during the summer.

Three Crops in One Year.

Mr. Edward Schooley, of Irondequoit, near Rochester, N. Y., is a gardener who boasts that one small piece of ground has paid for itself with the crops of last season's growth.

It comprises only three-quarters of an acre, planted in the fall with spinach, from which last spring he sold \$25 worth of early spinach.

As soon as the price declined he plowed the land, manured it heavily and planted with golden wax beans. From this he sold as string beans \$195 worth, and if he had waited a week longer might have picked \$10 or \$15 worth more.

Instead of this he plowed under the beans, enriching the land and fitting it admirably for the turnip crop, which was sown immediately afterward. The crop grew with amazing luxuriance, and Mr. Schooley, when his harvest was completed, realized at least \$50, the turnips selling at 20 to 25 cents per bushel.

After the turnips were off rye was sown to make whatever growth it would,

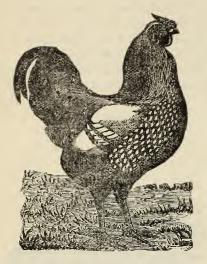
and will be plowed under as green manure next spring.

Here is \$240 from three-quarters of an acre of land, or \$320 per acre.

Mr. Schooley nets more profit from this small piece of land than many owners of large farms do from their larger acreage.—American Cultivator.



Above is one of the new and beautiful plants recently introduced for decorative purposes and for the appreciation of those who love grace and beauty it growing novelties. J. Lewis Childs, of Floral Park, N. Y., whose particular forte seems to be the introduction of new, curious, beautiful and useful plants, seeds and fruits, gives us this.



A. C. Hawkins on Poultry.

Mr. Hawkins is one of the largest and most successful poultrymen in our country. What he says, therefore, is of value to all those who are raising or dealing in poultry even in a small way.

His favorite chickens are the Plymouth Rocks, and his profit averages \$2.00 to each hen for the year.

He is not in favor of the use of incubators and finds no difficulty in having plenty of broody hens in February, even at the beginning of the month. He says: "I have had 300 hens sitting the first of February."

But let us have his own words on the general subject: Ed. M. F.

"The methods of caring for fowls are so varied that the rules that I may give are not the only ones to insure success, but are those that have given profitable results in my own business.

Bear in mind that the character of the food given to fowls is not the only essential thing to insure a profit from them. They should have comfortable quarters,

thoroughly ventilated and suitably located. They must have sufficient exercise to keep them in a healthly and vigorous condition, as only the healthy animal can be a profitable one.

Carefully watch their natural habits in the summer season and provide for them conditions that are as near to their nature as possible.

A dry, well drained, southern exposure is a most desirable location for fowls.

The most practical building I have ever used for poultry was made on the following plan: For one hundred fowls it should be fifty feet long and twelve feet wide, with a partition in the centre and a shed at either end of the building twenty-five feet long. This will give for each flock of fifty fowls a roosting room twenty-five by twelve feet, and an open shed twenty-five by twelve feet.

This makes a most desirable house for winter use, as the fowls can have sufficient exercise in the open sheds to keep them in a vigorous, healthy condition.

The inside of the building should be filled six inches deep with sharp, coarse sand, which will supply the fowls with the necessary grit required for the proper digestion of their food.

The sheds should be filled six inches deep with leaves or straw in which to strew their grain to give them abundant exercise.

It is well to have yards attached to this building, dividing the two flocks, that they may be confined at the desire of the owner. A building of this descriptions need not cost more than \$1.00 per running foot, including the shed, and it may be extended to any length that may be required.

Select only strong, vigorous fowls for

breeding purposes and give them a wide grass range through the breeding season, as on the health and vigor of the breeding stock depends the success in raising the young.

It is well to set several hens at the same time and at the time of hatching give all an equal number of chicks.

Place eleven to fourteen eggs under each hen according to the season.

Pullets hatched during April and May make the best layers the following winter, so it is desirable to hatch all the chicks during these months.

The incubating hens should be sprinkled twice with insect powder, that all vermin may be destroyed before the chicks are hatched.

Should any eggs become broken or soiled in the nest they may be carefully washed with warm water without injury.

The hen may be left in the nest with her brood for twenty-four hours after hatching, as the chicks will be stronger for it.

Give each hen fifteen chicks and place them in a clean, dry coop iu some sheltered exposure where the young can bask in the sun. The hen and brood should be confined in this coop for four days, after which they may run at large during pleasant weather.

If these broods are placed twenty feet apart or more, a large number may run in the same field, and each brood will return to its own coop at night, at which time they should be closed in for protection from skunks, weasels, minks and other destructive pests.

The first food for young chicks should be a soft mash made by mixing one-third corn meal, one-third ground oats and one-third wheat middlings and cooking the mixture in skim milk. This should be fed in rather a moist condition and the chicks should be given no drink of any sort until three weeks old, when they may have a constant supply of fresh water or milk, the latter being preferable when it can be obtained at the reasonable price.

The hens, if fed the same moist food, will not need water during this three weeks.

When the chicks are three weeks old they may be given whole wheat and cracked corn once or twice a day, but this cooked food is desirable for the morning meal.

During the first month the chicks should be fed five times daily, after which they may be reduced to three feeds.

When the chicks are five weeks old they should be removed to other fields and placed in larger quarters in colonies of thirty-five. A coop to accommodate this number should be four by eight feet, and the boards on sides be left one-half inch apart to secure an abundance of fresh air, which is indispensible for the healthy and rapid growth of the chicks.

At ten weeks old the young roosters should weigh five pounds to the pair, dressed, and may be killed at a good profit at this time. The pullets may be allowed to remain in these buildings until October, when they should be removed to their winter quarters.

With a good flock of April and May pullets it is an easy matter to so care for them that they will lay well through the winter, and a few days of neglect at this season may prevent their laying for months.

Fowls require a variety of food to keep

them in a healthy condition and to secure a large number of eggs. The morning meal should be a warm mash, consisting of one-eighth ground oats, one eighth corn meal, one-eighth wheat middlings, one-eighth cooked vegetables, one-eighth ground beef, scraps of fish, and the remainder of chopped clover rowen. At noon, oats and wheat should be strewn in the litter under the open sheds, which will give the fowls exercise for several hours. At night give all the whole corn that will be eaten by the fowls.

Great care should be taken not to overfeed, as the fowls will keep in a thriftier condition when given only what they will eat clean. Green food, such as cabbage or turnips, also ground oyster shells and fresh water, should be constantly before them.

Platforms should be arranged under the roosts and the droppings removed twice weekly.

The roosting room should be well supplied with fresh air during the night by ventilators arranged so that a draught will not strike the fowls directly. Bad ventilation causes sickness and decreases egg production. Better give too much cold than too little fresh air, as the fowls that have an out door run during the day are not affected by any ordinary amount of cold at night.

Keep an eye open for any diseased fowls and remove them from the flock at once to prevent any contagion.

With proper care and attention you should realize a net profit of two dollars per hen. The experience obtained in caring for one hundred hens should qualify a person to handle larger number with profit. Many persons are making

the cultivation of poultry their only occupation and are realizing a handsome income.

Do not attempt to embark in the poultry business on a large scale because some friend is getting rich at it. He probably began in a small way and has carefully followed the road that has led to his success. There are hundreds of abandoned poultry houses on the farms of New England that were managed by men who thought they could handle thousands of fowls at the start, and from lack of experience in the important details have made a failure. It is like every other business, you must learn it by personal experience before you can make it a success.

Some of the most successful poultry managers in my acquaintance are women, and they seem well adapted to the care of fowls. They will raise a few hundred chicks each season, and in the fall have plenty of spare money to lend their husbands who have been spending the season raising some less profitable crop.

Encourage the boys to care for the poultry department and give them the profit they may realize from it. It will teach them to do business on their own account; it will give them courage to stay on the farm and enjoy health and independence.

A Book of 500 Pages.

On treatment and care of domestic animals, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Dogs, Hogs and Poultry, sent free. Address Humphreys' Veterinary Specifics, Cor. William and John Streets, New York.

For The Maryland Farmer.

OUR GARDEN.

You have often asked me what I had in my kitchen garden, and as this is the season when you will want to prepare your garden, I thought it would be a good plan to write you. Besides, I have thought it might possibly get into the magazine to help others.

You know I have a grape arbor with quite a variety of grapes, white, red and black. I have currant bushes and gooseberry bushes along the fence; and in the lower part of the garden farthest away from the house, on the right hand side of the centre I have a raspberry plantation of about one hundred roots, and on the left about the same number of blackberry roots. Then close by these, and running way across the garden, I have three strawberry beds—very early, medium, and very late. This accounts for all the small fruits belonging to the family and cultivated in the garden.

The two beds next to the strawberry are for Rhubarb, or Pie Plant, and Asparagus. Thus I have all these permanent crops pretty well away from the house, in what I call the lower part of the garden.

Next to those I have two long rows of roots—parsnips and salsify or oyster plant.

Then on the right I have a broad patch of cabbages for extra early use, and on the left a goodly patch of lettuce for both use and seed.

Next come four rows of roots—2 each of beets and turnips.

We come now to the potato patches: On the right the very early irish potatoes occupying about four square rods of ground, and on the left sweet potatoes to the same extent.

Then I have ten rows of onion sets running across the garden, set out so that when needed they may be used in the family while green and the balance harvested for winter.

The next patch is on the right, peas, which were planted two weeks apart—while on the left are beans, for string beans, and also the delicious and wonderfully productive bush limas.

On the right, bordering the peas and occupying the balance of the ground on that side, sweet corn, early, medium and late. On the left a fair patch of cucumbers, a small bed of radishes, a small patch of celery and the before mentioned Grape arbor.

By this arrangement I have everything in rows running the whole length of the garden; and next to the currant and gooseberry vines, I have a path wide enough for the horse to turn without disturbing or injuring anything. I also leave a large space straight down the centre of the garden for a pathway; so that we can reach without trouble anything we chauce to want.

This kitchen garden occupies about an acre and a half of ground and it produces more than any other five acres on the farm. During the summer and early fall it supplies the greater part of our food, and what I gather from it is of the very best quality. I also generally harvest enough of onions, celery, beets and parsnips to keep us during the winter and spring in these, and our bush limas generally last most of the winter.

In reading over what I have written it seems very common place. Perhaps if I could put it in poetry or weave it into



fancy sentences it would be more attractive. I cannot do this; but I can say this: If you or any of your readers will have a garden, similar to mine, to supply the luxuries of the table for a single year, I feel certain it will become a permanent institution with you.

As the mother of a growing family I cannot be enough thankful that I am able to have such a garden, for it is a fountain of health, comfort and joy for all of us.

Емма Ниввоск.

Prince George's Co.

ISMAEL.

On the opposite page we give a cut of the famous Stallion, Ismael. He stands at the front of French Coach Stallions in America, and is owned at present by Messrs. W. J. Jordan & Sons, of Newbern. Va. We hear, however, that others have wanted him at a high figure and are sorely tempting the Jordans to part with him.

THE EXCHANGES.

The Kansas Capital devotes a page to Sheep Husbandry and calls for laws against the dog pest.

Mixed farming North, South, East and West seems to be the prominent subject of discussion.

The Southern Planter says: The expense of keeping the dogs in the State would alone, in four years, pay the cost of making 5000 miles of good permanent roads.

The Southern Planter says: the amount of the usual cost of keeping in this country. It must be admitted

the dogs were invested in sheep, it would purchase 300,000 sheep per year.

California Orchard & Farm takes exception to several exclusive laws curtailing freedom of intercourse in purchases of seeds, nursery trees, etc., from other States.

In the same paper is a cut and record of the Buff Cochin Cock Monarch, owned by H. F. Whitman, Esq. The Monarch has captured five firsts in '90 and '91.

The Germantown Telegraph, under the direction of Mr. Yoemans, makes an in eresting agricultural department.

The N. Y. Weekly Tribune; the agricultural pages are brim full of items fully up to the times.

The New Eugland Farmer prints a communication, from an Agricultural College Professor, in which he attempts to show that the Government did not intend to have practical agriculture taught to 'armers sons; but to form Colleges of such high grade that not one farmer's son out of ten thousand could enter or profit by them !!

The Practical Farmer has issued a number on fertilizers which conveys congeneral information on that sidereble subject.

Moving to Town.

Under a new law in Germany it is said that farmers and laborers are prohibited from moving to town, unless they have sufficient means to enable them to live in regular town style.

This is paternalism carried to an ex-If half treme, and it would not be submitted to that when people leave the rural districts and flock to the towns to better their condition they suffer many harships and sink to the lowest depths of poverty, if they have neither money nor work to support them. The craze on the part of many unsuccessful farmers to move to town is generally ruinous, but, from the American point of view, every man has a natural and inalienable right to pack up and move wherever he pleases. If he makes a bad choice that is his misfortune.

The German law, if it has been correctly stated, will direct public attention in the United States to a growing evilone that is apparently beyond control. The rush to the towns is a bad thing for all concerned, but it will continue until agricultural life becomes more comfortable. In the near future it is reasonable to hope that the conditions will charge. Rapid transit, rural mail delivery, better markets, multiplied school facilities and the increase of population will, in a few years, greatly improve the surroundings of the avearage farmer, and it will then be unnecessary to advise people to stick to their farms and plantations.

Of course a certain percentage of country population will always drift to the cities. The most successful city men has always been country bred, and it will always be so. These exceptional cases are subject to no general rule, and are simply illustrations of luck and pluck.

—Atlanta Constitution.

Nearly two and a half millions of "Special delivery" stamps were used last year.

Sick headache yields to BEECHAM'S PILLS.

FERTILIZERS.

Ashes.

Upon most soils 15 bushels of ashes sown to the acre and harrowed in with the grain, is an investment that pays better than Western farm lands. Ashes impart strength to the straw (thus preventing lodging), plumpness and weight to the grain, a good catch of grass and \$10 to the next year's crop of grass. Ashes of good quality are for most soils the cheapest fertilizer, by far, now in the market.—Furm & Home.

For The Maryland Farmer.

The Barn Yard.

No commercial fertilizer can take the place of good barn yard manure well decomposed and made fine. It supplies not only the principal elements needed, but it gives vegetable mould also, which commercial fertilizers lack. Care should be exercised in saving, increasing, and preserving in its best estate, the manure from barn and stable. It should not be exposed to the leaching rains and the fierce rays of the sun. It is best when kept under some kind of shelter, such as an open shed.

But do the best we can, the barn yard will not supply all we may need; and then we must get something to take its place; but let the barn yard be "first and foremost" on every farm, for its supply is the best.

For The Maryland Farmer.

Chicken Droppings.

Few sources of concentrated fertilizers can equal the droppings of poultry if properly prepared and applied. They should be gathered every morning and stored in boxes or barrels with about

twice the quantity in bulk of fine garden soil. This will prevent the escape of those elements of greatest value when applied to the crops. The soil should be dry to be of the best use and should be kept dry until about ready to use it. Then moisten it and allow it to stand a day or two; dump it out and shovel it Don't be sparing of your labor. If not damp so as to become thoroughly incorporated with the soil, give it more water and let it stand a day or two more, and then shovel it over again. makes a quick and effective stimulant for the plant, and can be used either when the seed is sown, or at any time around the growing plant. Few things can surpass it with any crop.

For The Maryland Farmer.

From Sheep.

On very light land where weeds and bushes have been allowed to grow, because the land has been thought good for nothing else, the very best fertilizer is a flock of sheep. If on this field a movable shed can be arranged so that the sheep can be herded on a different spot every night, there can be no better means of fertilizing this kind of soil. Such a shed may easily be built on rollers and moved its length each night with very little labor, and while enriching the land it will be a protection from the dogs which are such a curse to sheep husbandry. Even when allowed to occupy such pasture land during the day only, their manurial value is very great, and this should be taken into account when the value of keeping sheep is under discussion.

If you are not able to feed your cows generously, sell some of them.

For the Maryland Farmer.

ITEMS TO BE REMEMBERED.

As the spring approaches many are apt to think that stock no longer need shelter; but in fact they need shelter in the summer as well as in the winter. The sun is as powerful as the cold, and shade in midday will be a kindness which will pay in many ways.



The opportunity for pruning grape vine is about gone. If you have not finished the work now, it is best to wait. Your opportunity will be after the buds have started. You can with judgment rub off all the buds not wanted; but it will be a great deal of work even with a single vine.



Are you getting your land in permanent crops? These save a large amount of hard work. Varieties of fruit, orchard fruits, and small fruits, and even nuts may be profitable in this respect. Asparagus and Rhubarb may also fill a goodly space.



Fish culture is becoming more generally a matter of interest. It is not as noisy in its advance as three or four years ago; but it is moving on. Farmers have found that a fish pond can be arranged without any large expenditure of funds, and it adds largely to the variety of the home table.



Don't forget the flower garden. Now is the time to select your seeds for all garden crops, and while ordering for beets, carrots, turnips, radishes and the usual vegetables and salads, slip in a few

extra packages for the wife and daughter. If it is an object to deepen the surface of such flower seeds as are used for table boquets not forgetting the pinks, zinnias breaking it up but not bringing it on top. and asters.

If you have plenty of money fancy outbuildings are not objectionable: but it is well enough to remember that the "fancy" parts of then are not a necesity. Pleasant to have, pleasant to look upon, pleasant to show to ones friends; but Stock, chickens, bees not necessary. will thrive just as well in the plainest buildings, if equally comfortable.

Experience is a good teacher. Try new things which are highly recommended; but try them on a very small scale. It is never a necesity to lay aside all your old crops, all your old seed corn, all your old fruits. The new may prove much better; but let them be thoroughly tested before the old are abandoned.

It will not be very long now before nuisances will be traveling into the country with their guns killing all the songsters, woodpeckers, robins, catbirds, thrushes, which the English sparrows have left. Keep these gunners off your Warn them by posters, and, if these are not heeded, by personal requests We are losing our best to keep off. friends, and our fields and fruits are suffering with insect pests because our birds are destroyed.

Plowing deep may be of great value if the soil is deep, but if thin be careful how deep you plow. The good soil should be on top—not the barren subsoil.

soil, use a subsoil plow in the furrow

Determine now that you will give extra care to everything on the farm. Do not be willing to let things move along with only ordinary attention, because others are doing so. It is well to remember that extra care means an extra price when you reach the market.

As the spring opens clear up every part of the farm so that you can commence as it were new and undisturbed. Especially have your door yard perfectly in order-no unsightly refuse lying around. Keep the roadway in front of the dwelling always clean and neat; but it will pay well to bestow special care upon it now.

A Grateful Women.

I am so thankful that Mrs. Wymen told her experience in your colums last month. My husband has been sick and we have several small children and I had to do something. Mrs Wymen's success with the plater led me to believe that I could make a little money too. I obtained a plater for \$5 and have been plating for the last three weeks, as I could find the time to leave the house, and have made \$36,50. I would not have believed that it was so easy to make money with the plating machine. Everybody has a little work they waet done, and I sold two plating machines and made \$5 apiece on them to friends who wanted them for their children. Any one can plate and anybody can succeed as I have done. There is no experience ned-My husband says when he gets well he is going into the plating business. Anyone can obtain circulars by addressing H. F. Delno & Co., Columbus, Ohio, where I got my machine. MRS. TORRY.

Sheep Husbandry.

Under this head L. F. Abbott gives some excellent ideas in the *mass. Ploughman*. We make extracts from his article.

It is a well settled principle in eastern agriculture that profitable farming can only be based upon some form of stock husbandry.

In choosing any special line of stock husbandry, the capacity and productiveness of the farm, the market and demand for the products realized should be given the first consideration.

While the capacity of the farm should be a prime factor to receive consideration, the capacity of the owner is a matter of no less importance. Not every man who is able to run a farm in certain lines remuneratively is able to make a success of special lines of stock husbandry; yet when one is able to do this, sheep husbandry offers at the present time inducements second to no industry in the stock line; one requiring as little capital to engage in it, and which can be enlarged or contracted so easily.

Sheep, in some respects, as relates to their well-being connected with care and feeding, are different from other classes of stock. While sheep are susceptible to changes of weather incident to our changeable climate, properly cared for no animal is hardier.

There are advantages in the natural order of things in the special line of sheep husbandry which other branches of stock raising do not possess. To speak of a few:

A farm can be stocked for less money with sheep than if cattle or horses are the stock chosen.

Pasture is another consideration in favor of sheep. Sheep will subsist and thrive on scantier pasture, if the quality of forage is adapted to their needs, and a wider range of forage plants are applicable to their wants than for cattle or horse kind. For this reason sheep are of two-fold advantage in destroying weeds and bushse that would, in a few years, drive cattle and horses from their range.

Again, the necessary outlay for shelter for sheep during the inclement season is less than for a relative number of neat stock or horses. While shelter in our northern climate is necessary, the outlay for the requisite buildings to shelter the sheep is less, because less elaborate and costly accommodations will suffice for them.

There are other features of a practical nature which are of importance in considering the comparative merits of sheep raising over other forms of stock husbandry.

One of the chief is the quick returns sheep give for the capital invested in them. No other stock on the farm practicable to keep to the same extent, in outlay and returns, pay dividends twice a year like sheep. And the income is a generous one, and, unlike other kinds of stock, yields its annual income while the original stock is retained on the farm.

Among the discouragements to sheep husbandry the past few years has been the low price of wool. This discouraging feature has had its compensating side, however, for it has been the means of weeding out the flocks and toning up the average quality of stock.

Another thing: The mutton side of

sheep husbandry has received an impetus that has raised the standard value of the flocks at least twenty per cent. This has been brought about by a change in breeding stock, discarding the smaller, distinctly wool bearing breeds, for the larger and heavier carcass, and those breeds known and esteemed for meat rather than for wool. And while this change has brought its compensations, it has not necessitated the purchase of high priced purely bred stock all round.

The South Down is a sheep, whether grade or purely bred, that will mature early, and give a goodsized carcass, well covered in suitable portions with fat, and will yield a fleece of four to six pound of washed wool, which more nearly fills the bill for profitable sheep for the general farmer than any other.

The time has come when this proposition is reasonable and practicable. Every farmer whose premises are adapted to sheep raising-rich, high-land pastures, well-stocked with pure water and a proper amount of shade—whose fields afford the facilities for growing clover hay and the English grasses; where the corn crop can be made a special feature of his husbandry, both for the grain and the silo; if he believes in sheep and hence loves to care for them, he should make it a special feature of his farming operations to feed each winter from 500 to 2000 sheep for the winter and spring markets.

Stock bought in November and December and later—if it can be bought cheap enough—\$1.50 to \$2.50—fed on clover and timothy hay, with a daily ration of ensilage or rutabaga turnips, or both, with a pound of shorts or home raised mixed grain ground, and two

sheep husbandry has received an impetas pounds of corn daily, and the flock that has raised the standard value of the culled and sold as they fatten—will pay flocks at least twenty per cent. This at least a dollar a head, net, on the has been brought about by a change in average.

THE TREE TOMATO.

The Extra Early Dwarf Tree.

The seeds of these two Tomatoes are supplied by Messrs. L. L. May & Co., of St. Paul, Minn. The Mansfield Tomato is a very large tree, and even when trained to the height of twelve feet or more, bears abundantly, and is a sight to be seen. The Messrs. May & Co. claim that the Extra Early Dwarf Tree is the finest variety for general cultivation ever produced. We shall give both these a trial the coming season—The price of each 25 cts a pkt, or 5 pkts, for \$1.00. will pay our readers not only to send for the seeds, but also to send for their richly illustrated catalogue. Although they ask 25 cts for the catalogue—it is a beauty-if you mention the Maryland Farmer when writing for it, it will be sent free. Remember, also, that Northern grown seeds are desirable.—Ed. M. F.

A Wonderful Machine.

A new automatic machine for cancelling postage stamps on letters and postal cards is now being tested by the Post Office Department.

One cancellation will also stamp the year, month, day, hour and minute the letter passes through. It will cancel, postmark, count and bunch about 30,000 letters or postal cards per hour.

The machine almost seems to think as it works.—Annual Report of Postmaster General.

Entered as second class matter at Baltimore, Md.

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WANTED.

The Maryland Farmer wants from two to twenty acres of good land; of easy access from Baltimore; in reasonably good condition of fertility; not light sandy soil, but sandy loam; common dwelling suitable for the family of intelligent white farm help. It is wanted for experimental purposes; but will not object to fruits or other improvements. Will rent or buy. Address this Office.

OUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. Annual Report.

We recognize, with many others, the attempt in this report to answer our criticisms on the fact that the College Farm, under its present management, teaches that "Farming does not Pay."

We can make due allowances for the anxiety to make everything show to the best advantage, and we do not blame for that, nor even object to it, but we would comment as follows:

The attempt to set forth in this report that certain crops which do not pay should be grown as object lessons and will serve as an excuse for any shortcoming as to profit, is unworthy the management. If the soil is not adapted to any special crops, then the minimum amount should be grown, and the "Experimental plots" should give the lesson. The farm proper should be conducted just as any farmer would conduct such a farm, who thoroughly understood his business, had capital, and expected to make a reasonable profit on his capital, besides paying well for his own labor.

The special plea that "wheat," "roots" and "tobacco" should be grown, although the land is not adapted to them, and although they can be grown only "at an absolute annual loss," is worth a single word of reply. We are certified that good paying crops of wheat can be assured on the College Farm; and also that soil is there well adapted to most roots and tobacco. Plenty of well

rotted, scientifically prepared barnyard manure is needed, and that would be there, if proper care was bestowed to secure it.

The report speaks of "the condition of neglect and dilapidation, mismanagement and exhaustion, in which the farm was found four years ago," as another excuse for the farm running behind. It was in a deplorable condition no doubt; but let us remember that land lying uncultivated for years does not grow poorer. Every farmer in Maryland knows this from experience. As to the previous mismanagement, we all know that there could be neither management nor mismanagement of the farm when not worked, and where it was a notorious fact that there was no money with which to work the farm. At present with abundance of cash for all purposes, in hand, we see the fearful mismanagement.

We had spoken of a 286 acre farm as in the hands of the College. This report claims that by cutting off all land otherwise occupied—orchards, permanent pasture, experimental acres, ornamental grounds, woodland, etc., they have "95 acres of tillable land."

The report as a further excuse pleads lack of manure and want of stock to make manure of this 95 acres. Let us see. An average of 30 head of cattle, horses and mules—40 at present—a few sheep and about 25 hogs comprise the stock. With the usual skilled manufacture of manure, using the solid and liquid to fair advantage,

as should certainly be done at this institution, the thirty head of cattle, etc., should give 333 tons of manure. This is the ratio in advanced methods adopted by similar institutions elsewhere. The sheep and hogs should add at least 100 tons more making 433 tons of good manure, fined and ready for use annually.

Take any farmer cultivating 95 acres and give him this, and what would he say? That he had no manure and no stock with which to make manure?!

We have allowed only one half the amount usually claimed in this estimate from 30 head, as above.

We can appreciate the fact that our College has not made it; but the fault is just there—it should have made it; there is no real excuse for not having made it; the time has come for farmers to know that manure is of vastly more importance than any other one item, and to neglect this is fatal.

Consider now the figures for 1891,
The amt. paid out for farm expenses \$1450.87
The amt. of products of the farm
Showing the farm behind \$324.14
It is proper to state here that from this amount 'earnings' of the farm teams in moving passengers to and from the railroad, hauling coal, etc, is to be deducted 120.00

Farm still behind \$204.14

This is the actual result for the fourth year of the present administra-

tion of the college farm

It is shown in this report that

It is shown in this report that the farm has run behind during four years

\$601.54. To offset this condition of things the claim is made that the land has been improved during the four years \$1200—and that they have on hand some products not consumed when the report was made.

Suppose an ordinary farmer had this farm with the stock of cattle, horses, hogs, etc., and during 4 years' work had run behind \$601.54, and had the consolation of improving the value of his farm \$1200. Meanwhile he had received not one penny towards supplying his family food and clothing but what had been placed to the farm's credit. What then? This is exactly the case of the College Farm from a fair business point of view, allowing the very best that is claimed in this report.

But let us consider the facts of this report in another light: After four years improvement of 95 acres of tillable land, with all the stock heretofore mentioned, the actual year's products amount to only \$1126.73 cents gross—hardly as much as a market gardener gets from a single acre. And the report in summing up the four years, manipulating figures to the best advantage, and including 25 per cent improvement of the land—\$1200—reckons the whole gain \$1535.55, or \$335.55 receipts above expenditures (fodder, etc.), and says, "Upon this financial record, the management of the farm of this College is content to rest"!

Imagine a farmer supporting his family for four years on \$335.55 and rejoicing with great joy, "content to

rest" on such a record! Imagine it, if you can!

The wear and tear of farm implements during this period of four years is not charged against the farm. We are fearful that it would eat somewhat of that \$335.55. Of course it cannot be supposed that the farm implements are as good now as when first purchased.

We remain of the decided opinion that the College and College Farm need, more than anything else, a master mind, who will prove to everyone concerned that farming in Maryland pays.

This report is a fearful one to go to the Columbian Exposition, where we hope to make a decent impression upon the farmers of the country. It says in effect, farming in Maryland, under the best and most intelligent hands, (so it will be supposed), with any amount of capital behind it, with every facility of science, and the most favorable markets in the whole land, DOES NOT PAY.

This is the way they will talk: "As a result of four years, work, the management claims about \$300, over expenses on a 286 acre farm, with due proportion of woodlands, orchard and pasture. And that amount is all a surplus of fodder foods, etc., which will be consumed on the place before a new crop can be taken."

We are full of chagrin when we contemplate this fact.

Last year it will be remembered we commented on the fact that the College graduated six students. The apology was that they were from the France is 10 acres; and 4,000,000 year before the present management. This year's expenses were \$37,373.83 and the number of graduates five.

We were virtually promised a better "showing" this year; but the graduates are less in number.

THE MARYLAND FARMER--as the only Agricultural Magazine now published in Maryland, deeply interested in the practical education of young farmers, believing it is the duty of such a journal to speak plainly, independent of all cliques or coteries—the Maryland Farmer appeals to the farmers to see that this libel upon the capability of Maryland farms shall be no longer perpetuated at College Park.

We know that farming in Maryland can be made as grand a success as anywhere in the world, and that no better home for enterprising farmers and their growing families can be found in our country. It should be —it must be demonstrated in a model farm at our Agricultural College.

ARBOR DAY.

The Governor has appointed April 6th as Arbor Day. Let it be generally observed as a day for planting of trees which shall not only be ornamental, but also trees which shall be useful.

FRENCH FARMS.

everything we read; but it is asserted that the average size of farms in

have farms of only two acres. Many of these farmers are not only supporting families, but are laying up money in bank.

We are told also that the secret of this success is in their skillful farming-2800 real farmers being graduated annually from agricultural colleges, who have been trained thoroughly in every part of farm work, having for three years been obliged to give five hours a day to practical work and the same to class studies.

It is an exception when one of these students leaves the farm for any other occupation, and their life seems to be a uniform success. The workers of the soil are 75 per centum of the entire population; a happy, thriving, industrious and contented class.

This system of practical training should be studied in our Agricutural Colleges, and it would be a great blessing could we give the students this practical training in farm work, and fit them as in France to make farming their life-long cherished pursuit.

TO MARYLAND.

We have had occasion in years past to call attention to Maryland as one of the most attractive regions for farmers. We would again speak of this fact, and set forth briefly some of We cannot vouch for the truth of the great advantages which our State offers to enterprising farmers.

Its climate is that happy medium

free from the extremes of cold and heat, which is conducive to the real pleasure of life.

It is situated on that line, which seems to be free from the severestorms which scourge other parts of our country. A study of the maps of the Weather Bureau will show this fact very plainly, and the record extending back many years proves the fact.

Farming lands of good quality and within easy reach of railroads, or water communication, may be had at prices of abandoned farms in cold New England.

The markets for garden produce are good near home, and the great markets of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, on the seaboard are within daily reach, while the Western cities receive many carloads of our produce.

The fish, and oysters, and crabs of the Cheaspeake bay and its tributaries are famed in all parts of our country, and a great amount of farming land may be had where these help to make life a pleasure.

As a healthy region no better country can be found. Unlike a new country fevers and malaria are rare. The change from any other region is attended with less risk here, than in any part of the country where new lands must be broken up.

The Eastern Shore has been called the garden spot of our country, and has an enviable reputation for fruit and vegetables. Its productions are unrivalled and Philadelphia and New York pay high prices, before receipts from New Jersey are possibe. The Western Shore could be turned into a vast truck garden, its facilities for rapidly reaching every part of our land being so remarkable, and the demand for its products unlimited.

Further West we reach the hilly and mountainous regions of Western Maryland, with its rich and teeming valleys, its mines, and its wealth of fruit and grain.

In all parts of the State are the conveniences of schools and churches with all the opportunities of life which belong to an old settled country. The people, too, are hospitable, welcoming strangers and full of help to those who are seeking homes.

There are many other attractions which can not be set forth in the limits of a brief editorial. We can only say, "Come, and see."

Last month we notified our readers that the American Farmer, so long published in this city by Samuel Sands & Son, had removed to Middletown, Md. 'We have now to record another removal—it has gone to Washington, D. C., and we trust now it has a permanent home.

THAT GARDEN.

In a communication from Mrs. Hubbock we have the description of a kitchen garden, which is perfect so far as it goes, and for which she has our thanks.

We see, however, the omission of some vegetables which we would

grow, the principal one being the tomato. She may however have this grown outside of the garden, as the tomato does not require very rich soil.

There are others which may be added in some cases, as the cauliflower, egg plant, peppers, and the herbs. Among the roots we do not find carrots mentioned; but these may be a field crop.

The plan of the garden is excellent and if it should prove an incentive to any of our readers to improve their kitchen gardens in a methodic manner, it will have accomplished a good work.

The kitchen garden is never too large and is generally without order, comliness or convenience. As a remedy for this Mrs. Hubbock has written a very attractive article.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS.

We are now in receipt of many new subscribers, doubtless because of the fact that we are once more the only Agricultural Magazine in the State. When started in 1863 we were for ten years the only one, before the American Farmer was started by Samuel Sands. It is well known that there had been an American Farmer here in early times, but it had disappeared for many years, when Samuel Sands struck the happy thought of appropriating the name and thus reviving it and reaping the benefit to be derived from its former reputation. It has now passed out of the State into hands which we trust will make it a

success in other fields, and we wish its proprietors every success.

Meanwhile, let the farmers of Maryland give to the Maryland Farmer their united support, in subscriptions and in communications. Our columns are open, and we are bound to no party or clique. Here you can speak your minds freely and fearlessly in behalf of the interests of the farmer. We shall be happy to record every token of enterprize and improvement in agriculture.

We shall always labor in word and deed for the good of the farmer, no matter whether individuals are benefitted or not by it. The magazine will contain what we believe to be just and truthful articles in every instance. Send us your subscription, and help us by urging others to subscribe.

The Hand Plow for the Garden.

I would as soon put a horse in my parlor as in my gardeu. It would do more harm than good.

For many years I have used the small hand plow, with which as much ground may be covered in a day as with a horse plow, and the work is better done.

In soil that has been made mellow by thorough plowing at the first, when the horse may be employed, and when well-decayed manure is used, this little implement may be made to go five inches deep, which is enough. Thorough cultivation on the surface will sufficiently mellow the subsoil as far as will be needed at any time.

It will open furrows for sowing seeds, and will cover them; it will ridge up

the peas, and other crops; and will earth up celery as far as may be needed in its early growth.

By substituting the cultivator teeth for the plow, it will clean the rows, and it is so light and easily worked that a boy will find pleasure in handling it.

The garden then may be laid off into strips of twenty or thirty feet wide and the rows made across these, and these short rows may be made straight as a line without the use of a marker. This is better than having the long rows that are needed when a horse is used to do the work.

By the use of this cheap little implement one may go over a quarter of an acre of closely planted garden in a short day, and not feel so tired as if worrying with a horse.—H. Steward, in Orchard and Farm.

BOOKS, CATALOGUES, &c.

The Good & Reese Co., Springfield, O., issue a beautiful catalogue of flowers with colored plates, which they will send post-paid to any of our readers, for 6 cts in stamps,

Celery Growing and Marketing a Success. This is the title of a small volume by Homer L. Stewart, Tecumseh, Mich. Michigan Celery stands first the world over, and this book gives all the particulars of its growth, with numerous illustrations of implements and methods of preparation for market. Price \$2.00 by mail post paid, handsomely bound in cloth.

We have received regularly The Architects and Builders Edition of the

Scientific American, published by Munn & Co., New York, 25 cents each number, \$2.50 a year. We cannot say enough in its praise as an artistic and practical publication, for every one who has a home to build or beautify.

To Music Lovers.

The March number of Brainard's Musical World contains, besides a large amount of interesting reading matter, six new piano pieces: "Danse du Ballet, La Cigale," a new skirt dance by Northrup; "Marie Antoinette" Minuet and "Valse du Chopin," two exquisite new compositions by Richard Ferber; "Never More" a tone poem by Stephen Emery; and the celebrated "Melody in F" by Anton Rubinstein. Also a charming new Scotch song, "Jennie," by Theo. H. Northrup. The music in this number is alone worth \$2.00. Mailed post-paid for 15 cents in stamps.

New Music.

The	Elenhant'	c Patrol	from Wang

•		by Morse	e .50
Molly O!	Waltzes	Meachan	ı -60

Sweet Annabel Carroll Johnson .40 Cruise of the Fairy Queen—Baritone

Chas Graham .50

Jack Gorman Janssen .40 I may be this, I may be that Kerker .50

The above are all from the well known house of T. B. Harms & Co., New York.

We have received from S. Brainard's Sons, Cleveland and Chicago, new editions of some of their popular pieces, gotten out in very beautiful form as follows:

Wedding Waltz	Landmann	.40
New Coon in town	Putnam	,40
Colleen Avarra	Vernor	40

AN EVENING IN THE COUNTRY.

BY MARIETTA REGISTER.

When the evening shadows lengthened, And the clouds were tinged with gold, When the geese were homeward trooping, And the cattle sought their fold.

Then from out an old-time farm house, That was standing by a brook, Came a blue-eyed country maiden, Crying—S-u-k-e, bossy, S-u-k-e!

Her voice awakened music
In the gentle evening breeze,
As she tripped along the pathway
'Neath the stately poplar trees.

Her form was lithe and graceful, And her step as light as down: While her hands were small and shapely, And her face a berry brown.

Her brow was almost hidden
By a mass of golden curls:
Her lips were red as cherries,
And her teeth were white as pearls.

She seemed to be just sweet sixteen, No sweeter could she look, But that which made me worship her Was her S-u-k-e, bossy, S-u-k-e!

There awhile she stood in silence, Then a step or two she took; And again the echos wakened With her S-u-k-e, bossy, S-u-k-e!

Though many, many years have passed Since I left her near that brook, I'll ne'er forget the music Of her S-u-k-e, bossy, S-u-k-e!

THE HONEYMOON.

BY HARRIET F. CROCKER,

T WAS A PERFECT NIGHT. The silver moonlight flooded all the familiar landscape, bathing it in mystic depth of unfathomable brightness, and transfiguring all things into a fairy-like beauty. A beautiful night -a night of stars and fleecy cloudlets, and soft, sweet odors from a thousand pungent leaves and fragrant flowers distilled by the silent dews.

Olive and Janet had gone upstairs to their little room, and now sat upon the floor beside the low window looking out into the moonlight. On such a night sleep was out of the question for an hour, at least, and so they sat, slowly unfastening their hair and gradually preparing for bed.

A murmur of familiar voices on the little porch below sounded upon their ears and hushed them to silence. They leaned together on the window-sill and listened. The sister knew the voices well-the dear voices of father and mother. They had come out into the porch before going to bed, and were sitting on the old time-worn bench there looking at the calm, clear night. The sisters could imagine just how they were sitting, though they could not see them, the dear old mother with her wrinkled hand on her husband's knee and his broad homely hand covering it, they had seen them so, often. "Darby and Joan," Janet called them lovingly.

man say, and there was a little tremble in his voice, "it's almost fifty years sence we was married-do you mind? Next week a Wednesday'll make it fifty year. Mebby we'd oughter have a golden weddin' to kind o' celebrate—what think mother?"

"'Twould be nice, father," they could hear her answer, "but I guess we hadn't better think of it; 'twould be an awful sight o' bother' an' what with Olive teachin' an' Janet to do all the work with what little I could help, 'twould make it pretty hard. Guess we hadn't better, father,"

There was a little silence and then the old man spoke again.

"Hanner," said he, "we didn't never have a weddin' journey nor a honeymoon. Almost seem's if we ought to have'em now. You know how 'twas-we was poor an' couldn't even afford to go to Uncle Eben's for a little trip, but settled right down to housekeepin' an' hard work at once, without a bit o' play spell. In all these years we aint been nowhere to speak of except to the Centennial. an' we didn't either of us really enjoy that, what with the rush an' crowd an' confusion. Seem's if 'twould be nice to go 'way somewhere now on our wedding journey-seem's if 'twould make us feel young again, somehow."

"'Twould be nice, father," they could hear the gentle old voice murmur, "but "Mother," they could hear the old I guess we hadn't better think of it. Mebby the children would think 'twas kind of childish."

"Mebby they would, mother," the old man answered quietly, and then there was silence. After a little they went into the house and the girls heard them lock the door and wind the clock and then all was still.

Something glistened in Olive's great dark eyes, and the moonlight touched to crystal clearness a drop upon Janet's fair cheek. The two girls crept into bed and lay talking in low voices for a long time before they went asleep.

For the next few days there were busy preparations in the old farm house. Mysterious doings were going on all over the house. Mother was hustled off somewhere every day to visit some friends or neighbors in the vicinity, who gladly welcomed the dear, kind soul and her perpetual knitting work.

Father and "the boys," stalwart men of twenty-five and thirty, were busy in field and orchard doing up the fall work. Janet worked away happily all day, and when at four o'clock Olive came home from the little red-painted district schoolhouse, she donned a big apron, put on her thimble and went resolutely to work in her own room upstairs. Evidently something was in the air.

Wednesday morning dawned bright and clear, with that indescribable crispness and sparkle in the air that makes October a royal month.

Olive had asked the trustee for the day and he had granted it willingly. Janet, looking like an apple blossom in her pink calico gown and snowy white apron, flitted about the house on light feet, seeming to be everywhere at once.

John and David were wrestling with

their Sunday neckties and polishing their boots to the very highest possible shine.

The old folks looked on wistfully, but silently, wondering what all the commotion was about.

Out in the woodshed father confided to mother this piece of news: "I guess the children must be goin' over to Millersville to the county fair. But it does seem kind o' cur'ous they don't speak about it."

"That's so," mother had made response, "but mebby they think we're gettin' too old to be took into their affairs," and she sighed a little tremulous sigh that told plainer than words the sadness that she felt.

Almost simultaneously Olive's clear contralto and John's deep bass came ringing down the stairs. "Mother, please come up here a few minutes!" and "Here, father, I want you upstairs a little while!"

Wondering a little, but never guessing, they went up stairs together, and in the hall parted. What mother saw as she entered her daughter's room was a shining, silvery mass of something lying on the neat, white bed, a soft and silky pile of material which gradually took form and shape until she saw a beautiful gown whose delicate laces in neck and sleeves combined with the soft grey tint, made it look bridelike indeed.

"Oh, girls!" was all she could say, as Janet put her into a chair and began to take down her little coil of white hair.

"Dressing the bride" occupied perhaps an hour, and when at last the toilet was pronounced complete, the faded blue eyes behind the gold bowed glasses saw in the large, old-fashioned mirror a sweet and dainty picture—a beautiful faced

old lady with delicate heliotrope nestling among the laces at her throat, and a tiny spray in her hair.

A faint, pink flush of excitement had come to the withered cheeks, which made the old face a sweet history of what it had been in its youthful prime. Olive and Janet kissed her, triumphantly.

"Mother, you don't realize how sweet and young you look! you have worn black so long!" And "Oh, mother we are going to have a wedding in this house today, and you are to be the bride!"

"Fifty years ago today," the old bride softly murmured, looking down at the thin circlet of gold that she had worn so long, and in her heart a sudden longing sprang up, newly kindled, a quick and strong desire for him who had been her husband all these years.

She looked wistfully toward the door and took a faltering step towards it, but just then it opened and John and David entered, escorting between them proudly the hero of the day attired in a fine new suit of broadcloth with a festive little posy in his button hole, and a face beaming with renewed youth and gladness.

The children were forgotten in the quick impulsive embrace that followed, and the long kiss of love and honor and fidelity that crowned that half century of wedded life.

That was a day never to be forgotten in all the country round. Everybody was there. Not only the old who had grown old with the happy bride and groom, but the middleaged and strong. A great table had been spread out of doors under the drooping elms that had been sleuder treelets on that wedding day fifty years ago.

The minister who had married them was long since dead, but his son, a midddle aged dominie, had been procured for the occasion, and performed the marriage ceremony with grace and dignity.

Olive and John acted as bridesmaid and groomsman, looking very happy at the complete success of their innocent conspiracy.

Congratulations and gifts were many. The bridegroom seemed scarcely to need the support of his handsomely engraved, gold-headed cane, he felt so young, despite his seventytwo years, and stepped blithely and briskly about among his guests with his slim little wife upon his arm, smiling and happy.

When the dinner was at last over, David pressed something into his father's hands—two tickets for the Western city in which his married son lived.

"Your trunk is packed and ready and the train leaves at four o'clock, father," he said with characteristic straightforwardness. "All you've got to do now is to take your wedding journey and enjoy a six weeks' honeymoon at Sam's."

The other children gathered around and laughed gleefully at the bewildered joy of the newly-wedded pair.

"It's what I've wanted to do ever sence Sam went West," the old man said quaveringly, and the tears stood in his eyes. The mother only turned and leaned her head upon the shoulder of her tall Olive—and Olive kissed her.

There were misty eyes all round and smiling faces as the carriage drove off amid a generous shower of rice and an old shoe thrown by some one for good luck. And as the guests dispersed after examining to their curiosity's content the array of substantial gifts, the young

folks at the farmhouse congratulated themselves and each other upon the wonderful success of their scheme.

And as the train sped westward over the shining rails, the little old bride sat in quiet happiness at her husband's side and looked at the flying landscape. There was a sweet peace on the dear wrinkled face, and a light of newer deeper tenderness in the blue eyes behind the glasses.

People noticed how lover like the old man was in his attention to the slim little old lady by his side, and some even wondered if this were not possibly the happy ending of some life-long romance. But no one heard him as the bridegroom leaned and said in a low voice, "It's be'n a grand day, Hanner—a day o' all kinds o' nice surprises, but they aint nothin makes me feel better than to know that we aint too old for the children."

And the bride made soft response, "That's so, father."

Then there was a long and blessed silence as they journeyed on together "in that new world which is the old," the world of love.—Portland Transcript.

Spring Dooryards.

Where the dooryard is not the litter place of the family during the winter, it is not a difficult thing to put it in order in the spring: yet there is always a great deal to be done to the yard when the snow melts off and the ground begins to soften.

Careful people like to top-dress their lawn in the Autumn when they put their plants and shrubbery which need it, in straw, and all this dressing must be removed in the spring. Even in the most careful families, it will be found necessary to sweep the yard in the vicinity of the house, as decaying refuse and vegetables are most unwholesome, breeding miasma and disease.

There are always ashes and debris of various kinds to be cleaned away, which belong essentially to the house.

It is always better to attend to such matters as these as early as possible before the spring cleaning comes.

The use of whitewash in the cellar and disinfectants everywhere, should be insisted on at this time.

There are many flower garden seeds which can be sown very early, as soon as the ground is fairly opened, if, indeed, they are not sown in the fall—such as sweet peas, pinks and many other hardy annuals.

Nothing shows the care and neatness of a good housekeeper so much as the condition of the yard—especially the yard in the vicinity of the kitchen door.



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No. 3A. The Whole Subject of Fertilizers. —This important subject is funy treated in this book Information is given as to the value of each of the various substances in their application to different rops and qualities of soil, likewise to the home manuacure and noduction of fertilizers, etc., etc.

No. 4A. Fruit Culture for Profit.—In this book is given a vast amount of u-tul information for growers of peaches, plum-, pears, apples, cherries, quinces, gra, etc, strawberres, plum-, pears, apples, cherries, quinces, gra, etc, strawberres, plum-, pears, apples, cherries, etc., etc.

No. 5A. Success in the Garden.—Contains raluable information regarding the secressful growing of asparagu-, edere, callidower, tomatoes, onions, squa hee, melons, enombers, cabbages, larsle, sponach, beans, beets, radishes, ma hrooms, etc.; directions for destroy luz garden pests, etc.

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Landreths' State of Maine Potato. One of the finest varieties we have; over medium size very productive, flesh when cooking snow white crystaline or mealy, deliciously nutty flavor. Per bush. \$2.00; per bbl, \$4.50;

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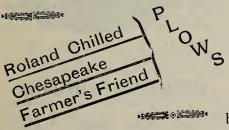
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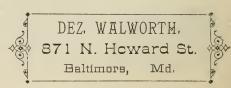
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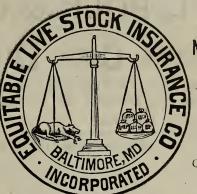
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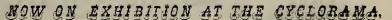
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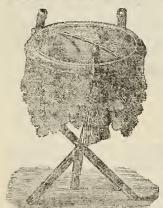
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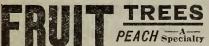
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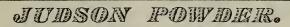
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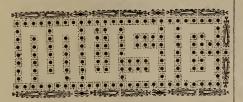
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